

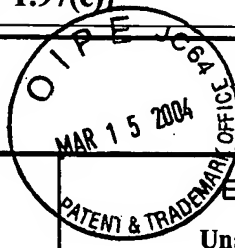
**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
15248

In Re Application Of: Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

Serial No.  
10/067,607

Filing Date  
February 15, 2002



Examiner  
Unassigned

Group Art Unit  
3731

Title: APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES

Address to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

1. ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

**37 CFR 1.97(c)**

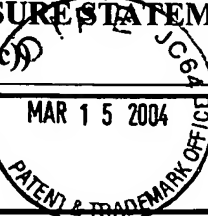
2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:
- ☐ the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);
- OR**
- ☐ the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
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**APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES**

**Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **19-1013/SSMP** as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
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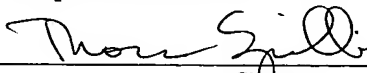
I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on **March 12, 2004** with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature

Thomas Spinelli

Typed or Printed Name

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Signature

Dated: March 12, 2004

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No. 39,533

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cc:



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No.:** 10/067,607

**Art Unit:** 3731

**Filed:** February 15, 2002

**Docket:** 15248

**For:** APPARATUS FOR LIGATING  
LIVING TISSUES

**Dated:** March 12, 2004

**Conf. No.:** 5886

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 197 07 382 A1, dated September 4, 1997, corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 5,766,189;

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 12, 2004

**Dated:** March 12, 2004

  
Thomas Spinelli

2. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 102 11 049 A1, dated October 2, 2002, corresponding to U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133178;
3. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 100 11 292 A1, dated September 14, 2000, together with corresponding English-language abstract of Japanese Publication No. 2000254143;
4. International Publication No. WO 99/20183, dated April 29, 1999;
5. United States Patent No. 4,791,707, issued to Tucker, dated December 20, 1988; and
6. United States Patent No. 5,242,456, issued to Nash, et al., dated September 7, 1993.

The references were cited in an Office Action dated January 14, 2004 received from the German Patent Office. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Office Action and an English translation thereof. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the Office Action.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of the official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", written in a cursive style.

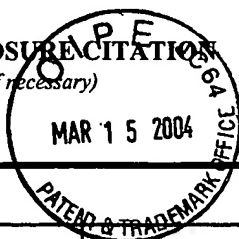
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TS:jap

# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION** (Use several sheets if necessary)



Docket Number (Optional)

15248

Application Number

10/067,607

Applicant(s)

Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

Filing Date

February 15, 2002

Group Art Unit

3731

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,791,707	12/20/1988	Tucker			
		5,242,456	9/7/1993	Nash et al.			

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		DE 197 07 382 A1	9/4/1997	Germany				
		DE 102 11 049 A1	10/2/2002	Germany				
		DE 100 11 292 A1	9/14/2000	Germany				
		WO 99/20183	4/29/1999	PCT				

## **OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.